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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Health Services Support Project (HSSP)

### OVERVIEW

The Health Services Support Project (HSSP) began in 2006 to improve service delivery and quality of basic health services in Afghanistan, and to generate demand for those services. Implemented by ACCESS<sup>1</sup>, HSSP provides support to NGOs contracted by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to improve the planning, management, implementation, and monitoring of the delivery of a quality Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). The BPHS is the framework of primary healthcare service delivery in Afghanistan. USAID supports the implementation of the BPHS in 455 health facilities across 13 provinces in Afghanistan. The BPHS delineates the services that should be provided by each type of health facility, and specifies the staff, equipment, diagnostic services, and medications required to provide those services.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Strengthening the capacity of BPHS–implementing NGOs to deliver, manage, and monitor high-quality services for women, children, and their families** – Institutionalizing the quality assurance process (QAP) at all levels of the BPHS. The QAP includes identifying standards of care, assessing progress, guiding improvement in achieving these standards, and recognizing the achievement of the standards.
- **Strengthening the quality of midwifery education and increasing the number of skilled birth attendants** – Providing grants and technical assistance to hospital- and community-based midwifery education programs to recruit, train, and deploy midwives. Serving as the secretariat to the National Midwifery Education Accreditation Board to support quality education.
- **Integrating gender-sensitive approaches within BPHS services** – Supporting gender training, research, and the promotion and integration of gender-sensitive Quality Assurance standards.
- **Expanding community-based prevention of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH)** – Training community health workers to provide misoprostol – a medication proven to protect against postpartum hemorrhage – to women who cannot give birth under the care of a doctor or midwife.
- **Establishing family health action groups and mobilizing communities** – Supporting community health workers to spread health messages in the community, promoting healthy lifestyles, and championing the appropriate use of health services.

### RESULTS

- Developed national quality assurance standards for improved service delivery in 14 priority areas of the BPHS, including family planning, antenatal care, postpartum care, and infection prevention.
- Awarded 11 midwifery education grants to support the training of midwives. To date, 462 midwives have graduated from these programs.
- Trained 5,267 participants from NGOs, health facilities, and the MoPH on subjects including basic emergency obstetric care, rational use of drugs, effective teaching skills, and behavior change and communication.
- Provided technical assistance to the Health Promotion Department in the development of the National Health and Nutrition Communication Strategy 2008-2013. The strategy was officially launched by the Minister of Public Health in July 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> ACCESS is a five-year USAID-funded global program that strives to improve the health and survival of mothers and newborns. Jhpiego implements the program in partnership with Save the Children, Futures, The Academy for Educational Development, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and IMA World Health. [www.access-to-health.org](http://www.access-to-health.org)